

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

22 December 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: The Security Situation in Rome

1. There will be little risk of harm or embarrassment to the President if he visits Rome in the next day or two. As always where there are crowds, a solitary act against the President by some demented individual cannot be ruled out. Moreover, the area around the Vatican will be visited by thousands of people during the Christmas season, and there will be large crowds in St. Peter's Square most of the time.

2. We have no information to confirm the AP's report that the Italian Communist Party is planning a "giant demonstration" against the President [redacted]

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[redacted]
[redacted]

The regular Italian

Communist Party, while pursuing the usual Communist line,

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has not been notably determined or successful in whipping up Italian sentiment against US policy in Vietnam. The Communists or any other group would find it more difficult over the Christmas weekend to organize anti-American demonstrations than at most other times during the year. Small demonstrations, particularly by members of the splinter pro-Chinese party, would be possible, but anything large enough to cause difficulties for the security forces would be unlikely.

3. The police and security forces in Rome are tough, efficient, and well trained. They would take all possible precautions to prevent any situation which might endanger the President, but it should be recognized that the comprehensiveness of their precautions would depend on the amount of advance warning they had. Over Christmas weekend many of the security forces will be on leave, and the authorities would probably want about 24 hours to organize themselves. Without such advance notice, the chances of a demonstration getting out of hand would still be fairly small, but not negligible.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES:

SHERMAN KEENE
Director

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